

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /119 W

----- 110754

R 211558Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5508

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: LABOR REACTIONS TO NEW GOVERNMENT MEASURES

1. THE FIRST REACTIONS IN LABOR CIRCLES TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT MEASURES ARE DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS AS BEING "CAUTIOUSLY PESSIMISTIC." LABOR LEADERS HAVE AGAIN STRESSED THAT WORKERS ARE PREPARED FOR SACRIFICES PROVIDING THE STERN GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAM SUCCEEDS IN STEMMING INFLATION. OTHERWISE, SAYS CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL LAMA, THE WORKERS ARE PREPARED "TO DEMAND WAGE INCREASES TO AUGMENT THEIR DIMINISHED PURCHASING POWER." OTHER CGIL SPOKESMEN CLAIM THE MEASURES WILL EXACT DISPROPORTIONATE SACRIFICES

FROM THE WORKERS, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT. THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, SAYS CGIL METAL CHIEF TRENTIN, "IS MORE BACKWARD THAN THE ONE PRESENTED BY SUCH A RIGHT-WING POLITICIAN AS GISCARD D'ESTAING."

2. CISL SECRETARY GENERAL STORTI HAS BEEN MUCH MORE MODERATE IN HIS COMMENT. SPEAKING TO A RALLY AT THE ITALSIDER PLANT IN GENOA, STORTI EXPRESSED LABOR'S APPRECIATION FOR THE EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS AND ADDED THAT ONLY AFTER THE UNIONS MEET

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WITH THE GOVERNMENT WILL THEY BE IN A POSITION TO EVALUATE THE NEW

MEASURES FULLY. THE FEDERATION CGIL, CISL, UIL HAS CALLED FOR
A PROMPT MEETING WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO CONCLUDE THE SERIES OF
TALKS INTERRUPTED BY NEAR DISSOLUTION OF THE RUMOR GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS GENERAL RELIEF AMONG THE UNIONS THAT THE RUMOR
GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PUT BACK TOGETHER BECAUSE LABOR FEELS
STRONGLY THERE IS NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE CENTER-LEFT
FORMULA, AND NO OTHER CENTER-LEFT CONSTELLATION WAS READILY AVAIL-
ABLE. THE TRUE TEST OF LABOR'S PROFESSED WILLINGNESS TO
SACRIFICE WILL COME, OF COURSE, WHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES BE-
GIN TO EXACT THEIR TOLL. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, LABOR UNIONS, ANTIINFLATIONARY PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME08602
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740163-1060
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740624/aaaaauft.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <18 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR REACTIONS TO NEW GOVERNMENT MEASURES
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005